(d) Development of small scale industry is being particularly encouraged. Approvals for a number of items have been decentralised to the level of State Directorate industries. Investment limit for this sector has been revised to Rs. 35 lakhs and that for ancillary units to Rs. 45 lakhs.

(e) In order to achieve economies of scale in certain key areas, certain components which were reserved for small scale sector have been dereserved.

(f) In almost all areas of electronics, excluding consumer electronics, MRTP companies have been exempt from clearance under Section 21 and 22 of MRTP Act.

(g) The private sector units are permitted to manufacture telephones, EPABX, teleprinters, facsimile equipment, data communication terminals, etc. Other telecommunication items can also be taken up by the private sector with Central|State Government participation of atleast 5 per cent equity shares.

(h) For computer industry, the emphasis is on the manufacture of computers based on latest technology at prices comparable with international level and progressively increasing indigenisation consistent with economic viability.

(i) Import duty on raw materials, announced to encourage production and export of software.

(j) Import duty on raw materials, components and capital equipment has been reduced. For component industry, the duty on raw materials, parts and semifinished goods have been rationalised.

(k) The import policy has been rationalised with a view to increase production.

(l) Government is promoting appropriate applications of electronnics to improve productivity, quality, safety and quality of services.

Parity of ED Employees regarding Age and Qualification with the Regular Employees

2665. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether E.D. employees are treated at par with regular employees in the matter of age and qualifications for promotion to Group D, Postman and Clerical cadre; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Extra Departmental employees are not whole-time employees. They are expected to have an indepndent income, and they perform duties for the Department of Posts for a lesser period of time per day than regular employees. The conditions of service for E.D. employees are also less rigorous than those for regular employees.

Representations for Promotion in Department of Electronics

2666. SHRI SHANKARRAO NARAYANRAO DESHMUKH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of representations received by Government through the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes| Scheduled Tribes during the period from 1st January to 1st July, 1989 regarding promotion of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in the Department of Electronics; and

(b) what is the date of receipt of each representation and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE